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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Irene M. Conway Hastilow. M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

(Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council)

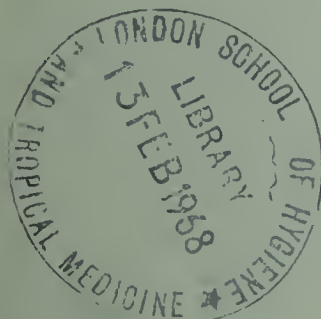
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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

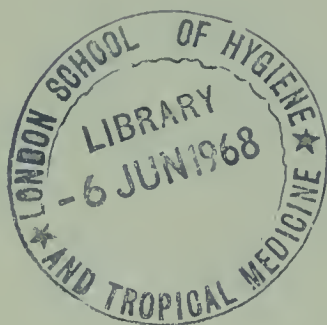
E.D. Edwards. C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.

- for the -

Year Ended 31st December, 1959.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1959.

PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Saffron Walden.

The estimated mid-year population rose from 7510 in 1958 to 7550 in 1959.

There were 116 live births and 116 deaths compared with 103 births and 110 deaths in 1958.

The birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population was 15.36 compared with 13.7 in 1958. Multiplied by the comparability factor of 1.05 this gives a figure of 16.13. The average for England and Wales in 1959 was 16.5.

The Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population was also 15.36, compared with 14.6 in 1958.

Multiplying the Death Rate by the comparability factor of 0.56 gives the figure of 8.6 compared with the average for England & Wales of 11.6.

Of the four children who died under one year of age two died under one week and the remaining two under four weeks of age.

On the whole 1959 was a fairly healthy year although there was an increase in the number of deaths due to coronary disease and angina. There was an outbreak of a mild type of influenza in the early part of the year and the new claims to sickness benefit rose from a weekly average of 28 to 108 for the week ending February 17th, 1959. In the Spring a number of cases of sore-throat occurred in one school. Mild outbreaks of diarrhoea, sometimes accompanied by vomiting, occurred from time to time during the year and appeared to be of viral origin as no bacteria could be isolated from specimens submitted to the Laboratory. No cases of diphtheria or food poisoning were notified, but two sisters contracted paralytic poliomyelitis in July. Unfortunately neither girl had been vaccinated against the disease and the younger one died.

The applications for vaccination against poliomyelitis increased tremendously as soon as the sad news was known in the Borough and routine work was put aside and special vaccination sessions held at the Clinic until all eligible applicants had received their first injections either at the Clinic or from

their family doctors. I am most grateful to Dr. Miller Wood, the Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer, who immediately made available sufficient vaccine and nursing staff to enable the extra sessions to be held. My warmest thanks are due to the Superintendent Health Visitor and the Health Visitors/School Nurses at Saffron Walden and those lent to us from the Dunmow Clinic, and also to the Clinic Clerks, for the tremendous amount of hard work put in to meet the sudden emergency. I must, in addition, pay tribute to the local Press which so kindly publicised details about the vaccination sessions. Fortunately no other cases of poliomyelitis occurred.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough again in March-April 1959 and details of the Survey will be found in my Report. The response from residents in the Borough was rather disappointing.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.
Persons in need of care and attention.

Magistrates orders had to be obtained in two cases during the year. The one case was an elderly lady who was living alone under very dirty conditions and who was so difficult that no home help could be found to look after her. The lady was also suffering from malnutrition as she refused to buy adequate food. She was admitted to Part III accommodation and settled down happily.

The other case was an old man who had become very weak and mentally confused. He was admitted to hospital and died eight days later.

The care of the aged continued to present many problems. Hospital beds for the chronic sick remained in short supply and the limited number of home helps in the Borough made domiciliary care increasingly difficult.

The various voluntary organisations continued to render help in making the old people more happy and comfortable and the great work of the Hospital Trust Association and the voluntary home help service given in emergencies by members of the Old Peoples Welfare Association were particularly appreciated.

Considerable help was given in a variety of ways by other organisations, but much remains to be done and a Meals on Wheels scheme would be an important step forward.

During the year we were able to start a swimming club for the physically handicapped thanks to help offered by the Activity Club and the St. Raphael Club. All handicapped persons can attend free of charge if their family doctors think they will benefit from doing so. Strong swimmers attend as voluntary instructors.

I wish to thank the members of the Council, and particularly

the Public Health Committee, for the encouragement given me during the year and the Borough Officials for their help and assistance. My particular thanks are due once more to the Borough Public Health Inspector, Mr. E.D. Edwards, and to my Secretary, Miss A.M. Lamb. The Essex County Council Welfare Foods/Clinic Clerks, Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Whiffen rendered most loyal assistance during the year and I was deeply appreciative of their help.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH

as on 31st December, 1959.

Alderman F.W. Goddard (Chairman)

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A.L. Godfrey

Alderman G.O. Bradley

Councillor G.T. Barnard

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Hawkins

Councillor H.M. Housden (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor C.E. Swan

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H..

Secretary

Miss A.M. Lamb, Senior Commercial Certificate of London
Chamber of Commerce.

Borough Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.

Public Health Department:

69, High Street,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions of the Borough.

Area: 7,502 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of
resident population mid-year 1959): 7,550

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959)
according to Rate Books : 2,600

Rateable Value - (April 1st, 1959) : £113,161

Sum represented by Penny Rate (Year ended 31.3.59) : £412.8.9d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

(Corrections being made for inward and outward transfers)

		Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u> : 116	{ Legitimate :	61	55
	{ Illegitimate :	0	0

Rate per 1000 population : 15.36. Corrected Birth Rate : 16.13.

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births : 0

		Male	Female
<u>Stillbirths</u> : 1	{ Legitimate :	0	1
	{ Illegitimate :	0	0

Stillbirths per 1000 live and still births : 8.55

Total Live and Still Births : 117

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) : 4

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	:	34.5
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births	:	34.5
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	:	0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000
total live births) : 34.5 (Total deaths = 4)

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000
total live births) : 17.24 (Total deaths = 2)

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week
combined per 1000 total live and still births) : 25.6
(Total deaths = 3)

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths = 0

Rate per 1000 total live and still births = 0

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1959.

(Figures in brackets refer to 1958)

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	(1)	0	(0)
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	(0)	0	(0)
3. Syphilitic Disease	0	(0)	0	(0)
4. Diphtheria	0	(0)	0	(0)
5. Whooping Cough	0	(0)	0	(0)
6. Meningococcal Infections	0	(0)	0	(0)
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	(0)	1	(0)
8. Measles	0	(0)	0	(0)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	(0)	0	(0)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	(1)	0	(1)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	(4)	2	(1)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	(0)	0	(2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	(0)	1	(0)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	(6)	3	(4)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	(0)	0	(0)
16. Diabetes	0	(1)	2	(0)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	(4)	8	(6)
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	(10)	10	(10)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	(0)	1	(1)
20. Other heart disease	2	(8)	2	(6)
21. Other circulatory disease	3	(5)	3	(3)
22. Influenza	2	(1)	1	(0)
23. Pneumonia	10	(2)	9	(4)
24. Bronchitis	1	(3)	1	(2)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	0	(1)	0	(0)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	(1)	0	(0)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	(0)	1	(1)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	(0)	2	(0)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	(4)	0	(0)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	(0)	0	(0)
31. Congenital malformations	2	(0)	1	(1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	(6)	5	(7)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	(0)	0	(0)
34. All other accidents	2	(1)	0	(0)
35. Suicide	1	(1)	1	(1)
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	(0)	0	(0)

Total deaths - 116 { Male - 62
 { Female - 54

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population : 15.36

Death Rate corrected by Comparability Factor of 0.56 : 8.602

There were 19 deaths from pneumonia compared with 6 in 1958 and 8 in 1957.

Deaths from coronary disease and angina totalled 24 compared with 20 in 1958 and 9 in 1957.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year 1959 :

	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>
Measles	1	2
Whooping Cough	2	15
Scarlet Fever	8	0
Erysipelas	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic ..	2	0
(Non-paralytic ..	0	0
Virus Encephalitis	0	0
Sonne Dysentery	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0
Glandular Fever	1	0

Diphtheria.

For the tenth year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis (paralytic) occurred in two sisters and the younger girl died. Neither had been vaccinated against the disease.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No cases of food poisoning occurred during 1959.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There was an outbreak of influenza in the early months of the year.

Mild outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting occurred from time to time but no causal organisms could be isolated.

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified and mortality during 1959.

Notifications: One case of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and three cases moved into the Borough.

(In 1958 two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and two cases moved into the Borough).

Deaths : Nil. (One death occurred in 1958.)

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough in March and I am indebted to the Medical Director, Dr. Daphne Smith, for the following report :-

SAFFRON WALDEN SURVEY - 1959.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of persons examined:			
General Public - Firms	1,158	843	2,001
Pupils	414	280	694
School Staff - Teaching	31	26	57
- Domestic and Other	9	40	49
Training College - Students		77	77
- Staff	1	23	24
Hospital Staff - Nursing	1	5	6
- Domestic	5	6	11
Doctors' Requests	8	11	19
	<u>1,627</u>	<u>1,311</u>	<u>2,938</u>
1st x-rays	<u>888</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>1,625</u>

Of the 2,938 persons X-rayed at Saffron Walden only 1,697 were residents of the Borough. It is hoped that next time more residents will attend.

SECTION B - General provisions of Health Services for the Borough.

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but, as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons urgently requiring an ambulance are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance; where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer of the Mental Health Service.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors - Two Health Visitors work in the Borough.

Domestic Help Service - Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday in each month at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden.

Care of Children up to school age - Child Welfare sessions are held at Saffron Walden every Friday afternoon. Children are immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough at the Minor Ailment Clinics. Smallpox vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children - Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tuberculosis with the consent of their parents.

HOSPITALS.

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden,

Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act. 1951.

Statutory Action had to be taken under this Act in two cases during the year.

SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. T.W. Cloughton) for the following report :-

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

The additional settling tank at the Sewage Works and the humus tanks on the final effluent outfall mentioned in last years report have been constructed and put into operation with the result that it is now possible to obtain an effluent to meet the requirements of the Great Ouse River Board and to standards prescribed by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

The small disposal plants at Swards End and Little Walden Council Housing Sites continue to give satisfactory service.

Swimming Bath.

The purification and heating plant continued to operate very satisfactorily and a high standard of purity has been maintained at all times in the pool. The source of the water used for filling is the town main supply and the method of treatment is by sand filtration, soda dosing, 'break point' chlorination and aeration. The water is changed every three hours.

Water Supply.

As a safety precaution an additional chlorination plant has been installed at the Little Walden Booster Station.

Throughout the district the standard of water for domestic purposes has been maintained at a high level.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Received 4.11.59. from Saffron Walden Borough Council per E.C.C.
Labelled - Tap direct from main at the Municipal Offices,
Saffron Walden.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance : Bright with particles.	Nitrate Nitrogen 5.4
Turbidity : Less than 3.	Nitrite Nitrogen Absent.
Colour Nil.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen 0.000
Odour Nil.	Oxygen Absorbed 0.15
pH. 7.2	Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.000
Free Carbon Dioxide 30	Residual Chlorine Absent.
Electric Conductivity .. 590	Metals :
Dissolved Solids	Zinc 1.0
dried at 180°C. 400	Iron, Copper,
Chlorine present	Lead Manganese Absent.
as Chloride 22	
Alkalinity as	
Calcium Carbonate 275	
Hardness: Total 140	
Carbonate 140)	
Non-carbonate 0)	

Bacteriological Results.

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C. - 22°C.
Number of Colonies developing on Agar	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction .	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per 100 ml.
Bact.coli (Type I)	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per 100 ml.
Cl.welchii Reaction	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of zinc. The hardness of the water is very moderate and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results are indicative of a water, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. Its content of free carbon dioxide is however greater than is considered desirable for this softened water from the aspect of possible corrosion of metals.

R E P O R T

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1959.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR, 1959.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Saffron Walden
Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out either by myself or at my instigation as Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer during the year 1959.

Your staff in the Public Health Department, although comparatively small and which apart from the Medical Officer of Health and her part-time Secretary, consists only of myself, Mrs. A. Boyton as part-time clerk and typist, and a rodent operator, were able to fully carry out the many and varied duties placed upon them. As compared with my earlier experiences when working with very large local authorities, there are certain advantages and means of attaining the desired results when working and living in the smaller district. Examples are the early knowledge of the alteration or initiation of matters affecting public health and an appreciation of any matters or problems peculiar to the district. Similarly to know and to be known to a large cross-section of the community is usually an advantage in order to obtain the ready co-operation of the persons concerned to attain the various standards required by the public health and similar legislation.

It is on this basis that the majority of my duties are carried out, offering and expecting the full co-operation of all parties concerned.

The year in question was one of normal routine and I do not feel it is necessary to comment on any matters of public health interest contained in the accompanying report. I would, however, draw attention as Housing Officer to the continued rising trend in the number of outstanding applications for Council accommodation and which have increased by one third in two years. At the time of writing this preface it was apparent that the number of outstanding applications was increasing at much the same rate and it is evident that the problems resulting from housing shortage will still be with us for many years yet.

In conclusion I offer my sincere thanks to the Public Health and Housing Committees and all other members of the

Council for their support and interest during the year. My thanks are again due to Dr. I.M.C. Hastilow, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Chief Officers and all other staff at the Municipal Offices for their ready co-operation and assistance and, in particular, to Mrs. A. Boyton who by her efficiency and pleasant manner has done much to ensure the continued smooth working of the Public Health Department.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.D. Edwards.

Public Health Inspector and
Housing Officer.

WATER SUPPLIES and WATER SAMPLES.

Main Supplies.

The routine sampling of the mains water supplies in and outside the Town area continued as during previous years and included samples of water supplied by the Saffron Walden Rural District to certain houses near the Borough boundary.

All samples were satisfactory with the exception of a series of samples of water supplied to a few houses at Little Walden via the underground reservoir at Little Walden and the storage tank on Hadstock Airfield. The source of contamination was found to be the underground reservoir and after dosing with chlorine at this point later samples were reported as satisfactory. To avoid further trouble of this nature a chlorinator was installed at the Little Walden pumping station. It should be pointed out that the majority of houses at Little Walden are supplied with water direct from Saffron Walden, all samples of this supply were satisfactory.

Occasional samples were also taken of water direct from the borehole at the Municipal Waterworks before any treatment or purification and all samples were reported as being free from coliform bacilli and *Bacterium coli* (Type I).

A sample taken for chemical and mineral analysis was reported as highly satisfactory.

Well Supplies.

The five wells known to provide water for drinking purposes were sampled from time to time.

Samples from two of the wells were unsatisfactory. In one case the contamination was found to be of a temporary nature and was removed by cleansing. In the other instance the well had been suspect for some time and arrangements were already in hand for the provision of a mains supply. This will include the laying of approximately 1,000 yards of pipe through agricultural land and the work is to be carried out after the harvest in 1960.

Municipal Swimming Bath.

This is the only public swimming bath in the locality and is much in demand. The pool is indoors and receives its initial supply of water from the town mains, further water being added from the same source as necessary to maintain the required level. The water is re-circulated through the

purification plant consisting of rapid sand filters and chlorination plant, it is also heated before return to the pool. All water passes through the purification plant once approximately every three hours and a high level of purity is maintained.

Bacteriological samples were reported as satisfactory.

Paddling Pool.

A sample of water from this pool was reported as containing coliform bacilli and *Bacterium coli* (Type I). There are no standards laid down for water of this type but the presence of faecal pollution would be regarded as unsatisfactory in chlorinated swimming bath water. The pool should, therefore, be used only for the purpose for which it is intended, that is the sailing of model boats and for paddling only.

Miscellaneous.

An informal notice was served for the re-instatement of water supply to a house and was immediately complied with.

Summary of Bacteriological Samples Taken.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area.	23	23	Nil
Main supply - Swards End.	24	24	Nil
Main supply - Audley End Village and District.	20	20	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden			
Direct	3	3	Nil
Indirect	20	12	8
Reservoir	5	1	4
Well supplies	15	10	5
Untreated water from bore at Municipal Waterworks.	6	6	Nil
Municipal Swimming Pool	2	2	Nil
Paddling Pool	1	See above.	
Friends School Swimming Bath	2	2	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Sections 39 & 45. Drainage, defective sanitary conveniences, etc.

10 informal notices were served under ~~these~~ sections and the work requested included the provision of proper means of drainage, the removal of sewage effluent from a ditch, the cleansing, renewal or provision of sanitary conveniences, and the improvement or repair of existing drainage systems.

Section 83. Filthy or verminous premises.

One Council house needed to be disinfested due to the presence of bugs which were found when the house was vacated.

Advice was also given in many cases regarding the control of various insects such as ants, cluster flies, woodlice, cockroaches, etc.

Section 92. Nuisances.

64 complaints of alleged insanitary or other conditions prejudicial to health were received, on inspection 55 of these complaints were found to be justified and warrant action either under this section and other sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, or other public health legislation.

Resulting from routine inspections or complaints 34 nuisances which could be dealt with under this section were found to exist and 34 informal notices requiring the abatement of nuisance were served. A series of complaints of alleged nuisance were received from various residents in the Little Walden Road area regarding the presence of very fine chalk dust in and about their homes arising from the scraping and screening of chalk in a nearby chalkpit. Consultations with the occupiers of the pit failed to produce sufficient improvement in conditions and an abatement notice was served. Work in the chalkpit came to an end soon after but this was mainly due to a change in weather and the approach of the winter months.

Two abatement notices were also served in connection with the keeping of pigs and the condition of a nearby ditch.

34 informal notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, were complied with during the year and included several notices served prior to 1959.

Section 167. Disinfection of premises, articles, etc.

Two schools, six houses and one car were disinfected as a result of infectious diseases or illnesses.

18 visits were made for the purpose of enquiry as to the source of infectious diseases, contacts of patients, exclusion of food handlers and school children, etc.

Section 269. Control of moveable dwellings.

There was no change in the number of licences issued for the stationing and use of moveable dwellings. Two modern trailer type caravans were licensed for residential use and one for week-end and holiday use only.

All caravans and sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition, mains water supply and suitable sanitary accommodation being available in each case.

THE HOUSING ACT, 1957.

Repair of Dwellings.

The routine inspection of houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation but capable of repair at reasonable expense continued during the year. Such inspections on a routine basis commenced in July, 1958, and progress to date has been encouraging. Of the total of 60 informal notices served, 19 had been complied with by the end of the year and in the majority of other cases the necessary work was either almost complete or in hand.

Progress at the end of the year was as follows :-

(a) for the year 1959.

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	22
Informal notices served	.	..	..	..	..	21
Informal notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	14
Houses at which work had started but was not completed	..	..	..	..	..	25

(b) totals for period July, 1958 to December, 1959.

Houses inspected	70
Informal notices served . . .	60
Informal notices complied with	19

Two formal notices for the repair of dwellinghouses were served under Section 9 of the Act and one formal notice was complied with by the Council carrying out the necessary repairs in default of the owner. The cost of this work is being recovered by means of quarterly instalments.

Demolition, closure, etc., of unfit houses.

Two individual houses were reported to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and action was taken in each case to secure the closure of the house. The persons displaced from these houses are to be re-housed by the Council but had not been re-housed by the end of the year.

A report was presented to the Council on the condition of 12 houses at Middle Square, Castle Street, and it was decided to include these houses in a Clearance Area in order to secure the demolition of the houses and re-house the occupants.

In making proposals to the Minister of Housing and Local Government as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, it was stated that a total of 77 unfit houses were expected to be dealt with during the five year period ending in 1960. Assuming the 12 houses mentioned above are dealt with by the end of 1960, the total of 77 houses to be dealt with will almost be achieved. In actual fact a large proportion of these houses were repaired, improved and retained for living accommodation, a more pleasing result than their closure or demolition and loss as housing accommodation.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year and no cases are outstanding from previous years.

THE RENT ACT, 1957.

A few enquiries were received from tenants and owners as to their position under the Act but no applications for a

Certificate of Disrepair were received.

Two Certificates of Disrepair issued in previous years have yet to be cancelled, two others were cancelled when the houses concerned were condemned and made subject to Closing Orders.

General.

There were no Council Dwellings under construction during the year but 43 Private Dwellings were completed and occupied for the first time. The total occupied dwellings of all types was approximately 2,603, this figure including living accommodation with shops and similar properties.

54 inspections, 137 re-inspections and 72 other visits were made in connection with the Housing Acts.

FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

15 inspections were made of premises registered as factories and informal action was taken in one case to secure the provision of intervening ventilated spaces between sanitary conveniences and workrooms in accordance with the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938. The cleansing of a dirty and dilapidated sanitary convenience was also requested verbally and was remedied.

Only 5 persons continued to be registered as outworkers.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of, and as required by the Factories Act, is appended.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

13 inspections of shops were made under this Act to enforce the provisions relating to temperature, ventilation and the provision of sanitary conveniences in shops.

Action was taken in one case to secure the repair of a defective and dilapidated sanitary convenience. Arrangements are in hand for this convenience to be re-sited and replaced.

An informal notice served the previous year for the provision of sanitary accommodation and sufficient means of ventilation in a shop was complied with.

FOOD PREMISES, MILK, DAIRIES and FOOD INSPECTION.

Food Premises.

There are 92 food premises and an average of 14 food vehicles and stalls operating in the Borough. The types are as follows :-

Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	..	8
School and factory Canteens	..	..	..	..	8
Hotels and Public Houses	..	..	..	..	25
Butchers	..	..	..	..	6
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	3
Bakers and Confectioners shops	..	..	..	..	4
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	1
Wet and Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	2
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	1
Grocers	..	..	..	..	11
General stores (grocery, sweets, etc.)	..	..	..	..	12
Sweet Factory	..	..	..	..	1
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	7
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	3
Mobile butchers shops	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers	..	..	..	..	2
Sweet Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Grocery shops	..	..	..	..	2
Fruit and Vegetable stalls	..	..	..	..	3 (average)
Mobile greengrocers	..	..	..	..	1

12 of the above premises continued to be registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food. A total of 32 premises were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity, 1 of these registrations was new and 1 registration was given up. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough.

21 inspections were made of registered premises, 84 inspections of other food premises and 8 inspections of stalls and vehicles.

The general standard of food premises within the Borough continued to be satisfactory. Improvements of a structural nature were requested at three food premises and four food handlers were warned regarding certain unhygienic practices which were likely to give rise to the contamination of food.

Milk and Dairies.

Although there are now only two milk dealers in the Borough it is possible to obtain all types of specially designated milk. One dealer also has a licence from the Essex County Council to pasteurise milk on his premises where it is bottled for retail sale.

Six samples of specially designated milk were collected and all satisfactorily complied with the prescribed tests for such milk.

Food Inspection.

37 visits were made for the purpose of examining various foodstuffs to determine whether or not they were fit for human consumption. In all cases the food was surrendered voluntarily and was subsequently destroyed.

The types and quantities of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Tinned Food.</u>		<u>Other Food.</u>	
Meat	270 lbs.	Bacon	113 lbs.
Vegetables	202½ lbs.	Frozen Fish	56 lbs.
Fruit	164 lbs.	Dried Milk	56 lbs.
Milk	21½ pints (equivalent)	Meat	41 lbs.
Fish	14 lbs.	Crabs	35 lbs.
Soup	9 lbs.	Wet Fish	28 lbs.
Preserves	2 lbs.	Prawns	20 lbs.
		Chocolates	14 lbs.
		Biscuits	10 lbs.

Informal action was also taken in one case in connection with a foreign body in food.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The total animals slaughtered for food in the Borough decreased slightly during the year and this was due to one slaughterhouse carrying on limited working only as a result of extensive alterations and modernisation over a period of several months. A large number of pigs slaughtered and dressed in the Borough are sold by wholesale in other districts and with full working at both slaughterhouses the numbers of pigs slaughtered, and possibly other animals, will no doubt

increase in the future.

Comparative figures are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1955.	475	1724	704	40	-	2943
1956.	627	2616	544	36	-	3823
1957.	550	2599	470	41	3	3663
1958.	519	2818	813	15	3	4168
1959.	398	2422	1133	22	-	3975

As before, every animal slaughtered at either of the two private slaughterhouses was inspected before release for human consumption.

The percentages of animals where some part or organ was condemned may appear to be high but in actual fact the part condemned generally consisted of offal only. The offal most commonly rejected as being unfit for human consumption consisted of liver and this was almost invariably due to parasitic affections. Such affections caused no impairment of the quality of the carcase but were a large financial loss to the butchers concerned. It is felt that the producers could do much more than at present to ensure their livestock were free from worms, flukes and similar parasites.

The proportion of beef carcasses affected with cysticercus bovis was much the same as the previous year and in every instance the cyst found was calcified and harmless. On finding such a cyst a detailed examination of the carcase and offal was made but in each case no further cysts were found. After such precautions as appeared necessary, the carcase and its offal was released for human consumption. An arrangement has been made that where only one de-generated cyst is found so the usual sites of the cyst are condemned, namely the head, heart and diaphragm. The tongue, having a greater value, is frozen in accordance with the recommended practice for a minimum of 21 days before release for human consumption.

Comparative amounts of meat and offal rejected are as follows :-

1955.	1 ton.	16 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1956.	2 tons.	4 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.
1957.	1 ton.	19 cwts.	2 qrs.	3 lbs.
1958.	2 tons.	6 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.
1959.	1 ton.	11 cwts.	0 qrs.	13 lbs.

Weight for weight, approximately 0.58% of the total meat and offal produced was rejected as unfit for human consumption, the retail value of same being estimated at £580.

The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, came into operation in part on the 1st January, 1959. The remaining regulations to come into force on dates to be appointed being mainly in connection with the structure and equipment in the case of the former Regulations and the provision of stunning pens for adult cattle in the case of the latter. Both private slaughterhouses had suitable stunning pens installed and in use by the end of the year.

The owners of both slaughterhouses intimated that they intended to bring their premises up to the standard required by the Regulations in their entirety. In one case major alteration and reconstruction works were necessary and these were almost completed by the end of the year.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1959, were due to come into operation on the 1st April, 1959, but were revoked before this date. These regulations provided for the staining or sterilization of meat unfit for, or not intended for, human consumption. Although satisfied that all rejected meat and offal from both slaughterhouses within the Borough is properly disposed of and should not fall into wrong hands, it is considered that such regulations are greatly to be desired.

My thanks are again due to the management and staff at both slaughterhouses for their ready co-operation and assistance throughout the year. As one of my major tasks, the work of meat inspection can be carried out in such conditions with the knowledge that those directly affected appreciate the importance and necessity for the examination of meat prior to its release for consumption by the general public.

471 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The grant payable to local authorities for expenses incurred in rodent control came to an end on the 31st March, 1959, and was one of the payments included in the future block grants. With the withdrawal of the grant it was pointed out that it was not intended to imply a lessening of the interest of the Minister in the exercise by local authorities of their functions under the Act. The regional and divisional pests staff of the Ministry have been reorganised to give an improved technical advisory and instructional service on rodent control to local authorities.

Although it is considered that the loss of a direct grant based on actual expenditure is, in some respects, a disadvantage, it has in no way affected or altered the work of rodent control within the Borough which continued as before.

In a district of this nature, surrounded by fields and farms, no reduction in the work of rodent control can be permitted without risk of a large increase in the rodent population with the subsequent dangers to the health and well-being of the community and financial loss due to damage and spoilage.

A maintenance treatment for the destruction of rats in the Town sewers was carried out during March, test bait being laid in selected inspection chambers over the whole sewered area. The incidence of rats was found to be comparatively low and further baiting was confined to those inspection chambers where test bait had been taken and to other inspection chambers in the immediate vicinity. A total of 57 inspection chambers were test baited and/or pre-baited. 28 poison baits were laid of which 15 were completely taken and replenished, 9 partly taken and 4 showed no take. The underground culvert passing under the Town was baited at the same time as the Town sewers and was also baited on other occasions.

The routine destruction of rats and mice in buildings, roadside banks, ditches and open ground continued as before and a total of 192 above ground infestations affecting 302 premises or land areas were recorded. Large numbers of rats were killed at the Council's refuse tip but rats were in evidence in moderate numbers throughout the year.

Mr. F. Richardson, the full-time rodent operator for the Council for many years, was taken suddenly ill at the end of October and removed to hospital. As time went on it became evident Mr. Richardson was unlikely to return to work for some considerable time and that it was possible he would be giving up his employment with the Council. As the work of rodent control could not be allowed to lapse indefinitely, the Saffron Walden Rural District Council was approached and they very kindly allowed their rodent operator to work within the Borough on a part-time basis. This arrangement was very much appreciated and allowed the work of rodent control to continue in connection with complaints and pressing routine matters.

101 wasps nests were also destroyed by the rodent operator during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A total of 21 visits were made in connection with smoke abatement and 5 of these visits were made immediately after observations of the emission of dark smoke from industrial and agricultural premises. Where dark smoke had been emitted the fault was a human one, not that of the plant or equipment, and advice or warning was given as necessary.

Complaints were also received of nuisance from smoke caused by burning the casings of copper cable in a scrap yard to reclaim the metal and, after investigation, a warning was given to the occupier of the scrap yard.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 74 as compared with 71 in the previous year.

A summary of the applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows :-

Applications from :

Single persons	13	(15)
Single elderly persons	22	(21)
Married elderly couples	22	(20)
Married couples with :		
No children	49	(46)
One child	52	(46)
Two children (same sex)	10	(6)
Two children (opposite sex)	12	(9)
Three children (same sex)	2	(2)
Three children (opposite sex)	7	(6)
Four children (same sex)	2	(2)

TOTAL APPLICANTS

191 (173)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1958).

As will be seen from the above summary, there is still a great need for Council housing accommodation, particularly for elderly persons.

The accommodation occupied during the year was as follows :-

	<u>Families.</u>
New accommodation let for first time	Nil
Existing accommodation let to applicants	12
Council tenants transferred to existing vacant accommodation	10
Tenants of this Council allowed to change tenancies with a) other tenants of this Council	4
b) tenants of other local authorities ..	3
	<hr/>
New tenancies	29
	<hr/>

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

Pre-war houses and flats	178
Pre-fabricated Arcon bungalows ..	20
Post-war houses and flats	452
	<hr/>
TOTAL	650
	<hr/>

There were no new Council dwellings under construction.

42 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 76 visits in connection with matters affecting Council tenants.



SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS and VISITS.

A. Public Health.

Public Health Act	299
Re-visits	88
Moveable Dwellings	8
Filthy and/or verminous dwellings	3
Shops Act	13
Factories	15
Miscellaneous Visits	83
Smoke Abatement	21
Waste Foods Order	1

B. Housing.

Housing Acts	54
Re-visits	137
Miscellaneous Visits	72
Enquiries into applications for Council Houses	42
Council House Tenancies	76

C. Infectious Disease.

Enquiries into cases	18
Re-visits	-
Disinfections carried out	11

D. Meat Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	471
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E. Food Premises and Food Hygiene.

Food Surrender	37
Registered Premises	21
Dairies and milk distributors	5
Other Food Premises	84
Food Stalls and vehicles	8
Foriegn Bodies in Food	2

F. Miscellaneous.

Rodent Control	45
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TOTAL INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

1614

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

(Does not include Shops, Factories or Food Premises).

General.

Accomulations removed	..	..	..	..	3
Dustbins supplied or renewed	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	3
Ditches and watercourses cleansed	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage.

Means of drainage provided	..	..	..	..	1
Drains repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	5
Obstructed drains cleared	..	..	..	..	1
Water-closets repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	6
Flushing apparatus provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Sinks provided or renewed	..	..	..	..	3

Water Supply.

Mains supply provided in houses	..	..	..	..	2
Mains supply re-instated to houses	..	..	..	..	1

Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Chimneys re-constructed or repaired	..	..	..	..	5
External brickwork and rendering					
repaired - houses	..	..	..	..	6
Roofs repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	19
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired,					
renewed or provided	..	..	..	..	19
Floors renewed or repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	19
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	13
Dampness remedied - rooms	..	..	..	..	21
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	50
Lighting and ventilation improved - rooms	..	..	..	..	2
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	5
Staircases and steps repaired	..	..	..	..	14
Yard paving repaired or renewed - houses	..	..	..	..	8

· FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1937.

Part I of the Act.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1) Factories in which Sect. 2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	1	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	53	14	1	-
3) Other Premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	56	15	1	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
1) Lack of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
2) Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
3) Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
4) Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
5) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
7) Other offences not including offences relating to Outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110.

No. of out-workers in August
list required by Sect.110 (1)(c)

No. of cases of default in
sending lists to Council.

No. of prosecutions for
failure to supply lists.

Section 111.

No. of instances of work in
unwholesome premises.

Notices served.

Prosecutions.

TOTAL

Nature of Work.	
Wearing Apparel.	
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.
5	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
5	-

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	398	Nil	22	1133	2422	Nil
Number inspected	398	Nil	22	1133	2422	Nil
<u>All diseases and conditions except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	120	Nil	Nil	54	359	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	30.1%	Nil	Nil	4.8%	14.9%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	61	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	0.2%	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.5%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

